



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge

*A Special Place in Alaska!*

- Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge was established to conserve nesting waterfowl and other migratory birds, Dall sheep, bears, moose, wolves, wolverines and other fur bearers, caribou, and salmon.
- Yukon Flats is the nation's third largest national wildlife refuge, larger than the states of Maryland and Delaware combined.
- It supports the highest density of breeding ducks in the state of Alaska.
- Waterfowl banded on the Yukon Flats have been recovered in 11 foreign countries, eight Canadian Provinces, and 45 of the 50 states – truly a shared resource.
- Numerous other waterbirds and shorebirds, including some 20,000 common, Pacific, and red-throated loons, spend summers here.



*The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service manages 16 national wildlife refuges in Alaska, or nearly 82% of the National Wildlife Refuge System acreage.*

**Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge**  
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*An average, new-born moose calf weighs 40 pounds!*

- The refuge is home to 35 species of land mammals, ranging from grizzly bears to shrews.
- The refuge's diverse habitats provide ideal homes for furbearers, including beaver, lynx, marten, mink, muskrat, river otter, wolves, and wolverines.
- There are some 20,000 lakes on the refuge. You could explore three new lakes each day for the next 18 years!
- The mighty Yukon and ten other rivers flow through the refuge. These support three species of salmon and 15 species of freshwater fish.
- Up to 2,000 lightning strikes per day produce the highest incidence of naturally occurring wildland fires in Alaska, which in turn create a diverse patchwork of habitat areas for wildlife.
- Portions of the Beaver Creek National Wild River flow through the refuge.
- A 100-mile stretch of the Sheenjek River, within the refuge, has recently been recommended for National Wild River designation.
- Fort Yukon, centrally located within the refuge, is one of the oldest settlements in Alaska. It was established as an outpost of the Hudson Bay Trading Company in the 1840s.
- One Koyukon and six Gwich'in Athabascan villages depend on refuge resources to maintain their traditional lifestyles.
- The refuge is open to boating, camping, fishing, hiking, hunting, wildlife viewing, photography, and other types of recreation.
- There are no roads or developed trails on the refuge. Visitors experience wildness on nature's terms.